



# European Biotechnology

Science & Industry

# News



## CENTRAL EUROPE

Bayer and DuPont join forces;  
Shire ends Jerini programmes

## INSIGHT EUROPEAN UNION

Bomb or solution? Austria moves  
to allow national GMO bans

## NORTHERN EUROPE

Finish government to introduce  
tax incentives for biotechs

## WESTERN EUROPE

Chroma bags potential billion-  
dollar development deal with GSK

## SOUTHERN EUROPE

Spain invests in world-class centre  
for translational cancer research

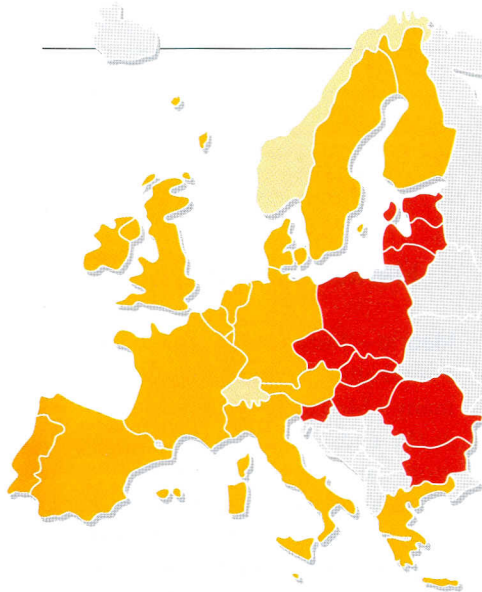
## EASTERN EUROPE

Czech scientists publish opinion  
on genetically engineered crops

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Researchers discover way to shut  
down immune reaction to antigens

## EASTERN EUROPE



### POLAND

## Bioton strikes gold – twice

► **Warsaw** – Polish insulin maker Bioton has bounced back. After incurring a \$6m loss in the first quarter of this year, (see EUROBIOTECHNEWS 5-6/2009), the company announced at the beginning of July that it was issuing €11.5m in shares to its major shareholder, Polish businessman Ryszard Krauze. Three days later, Bioton also bagged financing worth €83.5m from the US-based GEM Global Yield Fund. The funding secures Bioton's operations for the next three years. The company had carried out an emergency share issue in April to get access to cash, while at the same time promising a major restructure aimed at improving earnings. ◀

### CZECH REPUBLIC

## New biotech hub

► **Vestec** – The Czech Academy of Sciences and Charles University plan to build a modern biotechnology and biomedicine center, according to reports issued by the Czech Information Agency. With about 40,000 square meters of floor space, the biotech hub is to be located in Vestec near Prague, and is expected to create around 300-350 new jobs in biotechnology. ◀

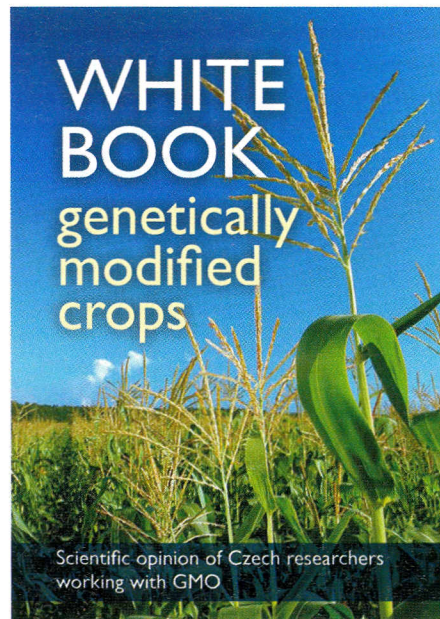
### CZECH REPUBLIC

## Scientists table GMO opinion

► **Ceské Budejovice** – The scientists from the Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Science who coordinated the EU project MOBITAG have tabled a report on their attitudes towards political interference in the EU's GMO authorisation process, and have formulated six recommendations to Europe-

an policymakers. "Many European scientists are disturbed by the fact that political factors and ideology prevent unbiased assessment of GM technology in some EU countries, with a negative effect on the whole Community," said the head of the report, Professor František Sehnal. In response, the group recommends the following

1. Decisions concerning genetic modifications should not contradict scientific evidence.
2. Breeding techniques, including GM, should be evaluated in respect to the outcome rather than the process itself.
3. Precautionary principle should be replaced by risk/benefit assessment applied to all innovations in agriculture.
4. Risk assessments should always include the benefits and comparison of parallel technologies with all their components
5. Economic assessment should also be done by comparison with parallel technologies.
6. If member states are allowed to ban technology permitted in the EU, they should also be allowed to use a technology that has not yet been approved by the EU. ◀



### SLOVAKIA

## Diverse benefits of Bt maize

► **Bratislava** – According to a new study released by PG Economics, Slovak farmers would benefit more than counterparts in other EU countries from planting genetically-engineered Bt maize. Regional factors, as well as reducing an estimated 30% in annual economic damage caused by the corn borer, would contribute to a 12.5% advantage in maize yields compared with conventional maize lines. The improved harvest would result in an estimated 75% net increase in gross margin (€/hectare), according to the study. ◀

### HUNGARY

## Chiltern goes Hungary

► **Budapest** – UK clinical research organisation Chiltern International Ltd has opened a new office in Budapest. The branch will be led by Dr. Attila Lorinczi, a member of the Hungarian Medical Society and the Society of Hungarian Urologists. According to Lorinczi, Chiltern chose Hungary as a clinical trial site because the country offers good patient recruitment rates and experienced investigators. The office will start off with a staff of 5, with the number of employees expected to expand to 15-20 in the mid-term. ◀